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Member of Todd Place Crew Sentenced To 50-Year Prison Term For Months-Long Rampage One Killed, 12 Others Shot, Including Innocent Bystanders

WASHINGTON - Darnell Anderson, 25, one of the most violent members of the Todd Place Crew, a gang that engaged in murder, assaults, drug trafficking and other crimes, was sentenced today to 50 years in prison, announced U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. and Cathy L. Lanier, Chief of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD).

Anderson, also known as "Peanut," and three associates from the crew were among the first defendants to be convicted under a criminal street gang statute passed by the D.C. Council in 2006. A jury found the men guilty after a nine-week trial that ended in November 2010.

Anderson was convicted of 13 felony counts, including first degree murder while armed, criminal street gang charges, and various firearms offenses. He was sentenced today by the Honorable Judge Lynn Leibovitz in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. His 50-year term is to run consecutively to a 12-year sentence he already is serving for a related shooting.

Joseph A. Jenkins, 29, the leader of the Todd Place Crew, earlier was sentenced to a 49-year prison term. Edward Warren, 19, who is serving a 40-year prison sentence for other crimes, earlier was sentenced to an additional nine-year term for his role in some of the gang's violence. A fourth defendant, James C. Bates, also known as "Pee Wee," 28, is awaiting sentencing.

The Todd Place Crew, based in the unit block of Todd Place NE, had a decade-long history of drug trafficking and gun violence. The crew routinely engaged in acts of violence in order to retaliate against other groups and to protect their turf. They also shared weapons and engaged in acts of obstruction of justice to thwart law enforcement attempts to investigate their activities.

According to the government's evidence, the gang was responsible for a series of shootings that led to the death of one person and the wounding of 12 other people, including innocent bystanders, between April and July 2008. Anderson was among the gunmen in the crew's violent

campaign to wage gang war in the Lincoln Road neighborhood of Northeast Washington. The primary target was another gang known as the T Street Crew.

In sentencing papers filed with the Court, the government described Anderson as “one of the most violent of the Todd Place Crew members.” He shot a total of four people, killing one. Those wounded included a 64-year-old man.

“Today’s 50-year sentence is another stark reminder that this kind of retaliatory violence will have serious consequences,” said U.S. Attorney Machen. “I applaud the efforts of the prosecutors and police officers who put so much hard work into dismantling this violent crew.”

The crimes followed a shooting on April 14, 2008. That day, William Foster, 28, a Todd Place Crew member and leader, was fatally shot, at 4:50 p.m., as he sat in traffic at the intersection of North Capitol and R Streets NE. Foster was Joseph Jenkins’s half-brother.

Later that evening, members of the Todd Place Crew plotted their revenge.

The morning after Foster’s murder, gang members plotted a retaliatory drive-by shooting of a T Street Crew member. Jenkins, Bates and Anderson were convicted of charges in the subsequent attack: the April 15, 2008, homicide of Gary O. English, which occurred during rush hour on the North Capitol corridor.

English, 34, a T Street Crew member who had nothing to do with the earlier violence, was fatally wounded in a drive-by shooting at 5:40 p.m. in the 2000 block of Lincoln Road NE, as he was walking home from work. A 64-year-old passerby also was wounded, shot while walking up the street to a barbecue. Anderson and Jenkins were the gunmen who carried out the attack.

Anderson fired seven of the eight rounds fired in the shooting, and both of the rounds that struck English, in the back and back of the leg. Were it not for the nature of the ammunition that Anderson was using that day, English might have survived the attack.

Three days after English was slain, Anderson participated in the shooting of two more people in the 1200 block of Brentwood Road NE. He subsequently was arrested, but the gang’s violence continued.

Other members of the Todd Place Crew were responsible for the crimes that followed. On May 10, 2008, more than 26 shots were fired in an attack in the 1700 block of North Capitol Street, hitting the victim, a T Street Crew member nine times. On May 26, 2008, two more T Street Crew members were shot while on a porch in the 200 block of Randolph Place NE. Finally, on July 25, 2008, six people were shot, also while gathered on a porch, in the 1700 block of Lincoln Road NE, including two T Street Crew members.

In announcing the sentencing, U.S. Attorney Machen and Chief Lanier praised the outstanding efforts of those who worked on the case from the MPD: Detectives Anthony Greene, James Wilson, Eric Schuler, Bobby Cephas, Dean Combee, Carter Adams, Eric Fenton, Tony Patterson, Carol Queen, Randall Parker, Alex Mac Bean, Kristal Boyd, Jamel Greene, Anthony Commodore and Joe Oh; Sgt. Durriyah Habeebullah, and Officers Jonathan Jordan and J.D. Smith.

They also praised the hard work of a team from the U.S. Attorney's Office that included Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Ambrosino, who assisted with litigation on forensic issues; Victim Witness Advocates Marcia Rinker and Shawn Slade; Intelligence Analyst Sharon Johnson; Litigation Services Technicians Josh Ellen and Lief Hickling, and Paralegal Specialists Jim Mazzitelli, Ethel Gregory and Alesha Mathews.

Finally they praised the extraordinary work of Assistant U.S. Attorney David P. Saybolt and former Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric P. Gallun, who investigated the case and brought it to trial.

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